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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/827,076 04/05/01 EMPEDOCLES

S 019916-00430

020350 HM12/1106
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

TRAN. M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1641

DATE MAILED:

11/06/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/827,076

Applicant(s)

EMPEDOCLES ET AL.

Examiner

My-Chau T. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-19, drawn to an imaging system, classified in class 422, subclass 82.08.
 - II. Claim 20, drawn to a spectral analyzer, classified in class 422, subclass 50.
 - III. Claims 21-28, drawn to a method for generating spectra, classified in class 436, subclass 56.
 - IV. Claims 29-40, drawn to a method for identifying signals, classified in class 436, subclass 164.
 - V. Claims 41-43, drawn to a method for acquiring signals, classified in class 436, subclass 172.
 - VI. Claim 44, drawn to a method for high throughput assay, classified in class 435, subclass 7.92.
 - VII. Claim 45, drawn to a system for detecting spectral information, classified in class 422, subclass 82.06.
 - VIII. Claims 46-53, drawn to a marker imaging system, classified in class 435, subclass 288.7.
 - IX. Claim 54, drawn to an assay probe system, classified in class 422, subclass 55.
 - X. Claim 55, drawn to a sensing system, classified in class 73, subclass 649.
 - XI. Claim 56, drawn to a fluid flow assay system, classified in class 435, subclass 286.5.

XII. Claim 57, drawn to a fluid flow method, classified in class 436, subclass 514.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions of groups I-II, VII-XI and groups III-VI, XII are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process.

(MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case another materially different apparatus such as a fluorescence spectrophotometer or a gel electrophoresis can practice the processes as claimed.

3. Inventions of group I-II and VII-XI are unrelated and independent invention. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different functions.

The feature of an imaging detector of group I is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of a two-dimensional sensing field of group II is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of a higher and lower intensity signals of group VII is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of markers intermingled with the labels of group VIII is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of a two-dimensional imaging system of group IX is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of a sensing system of group X is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of a probe reader of group XI is not required by the claims of the other groups.

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4. Inventions of groups III-VI and XII are unrelated and independent invention. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different effects.

The feature of generating spectra of group III is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of generating higher and lower intensity signals of group IV is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of tuning intensities of group V is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of generating spectra codes of group VI is not required by the claims of the other groups. The feature of dispersing the image of group XII is not required by the claims of the other groups.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter and different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

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application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

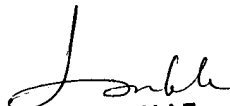
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to My-Chau T. Tran whose telephone number is 703-305-6999. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long V. Le can be reached on 703-305-3399. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-308-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



mct
November 1, 2001



LONG V. LE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600
11/05/01